EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Keith Baxter (Reg. No. 31,233) on February 23rd 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims:

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 21~~ claim 25, further comprising:

providing an additional network signal from one of the plurality of control devices to the web access interface, wherein the additional network signal includes additional Internet application level socket API data;

processing the additional network signal with respect to the control network protocol and the internal media access control protocol to produce an additional Internet application level socket API signal;

formatting the additional Internet application level socket API signal in accordance with the TCP/IP protocol and the Internet media access control protocol to generate an Internet signal; and

providing the Internet signal onto the Internet for transmission to an additional remote device.

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (New) A method of communicating information in an industrial control system for controlling an industrial process, the industrial control system having:

a plurality of control devices communicating data over a control network using a control network protocol, wherein each control device includes a respective web server program that may directly respond to and provide Internet application level socket API data and wherein each control device provide signals to or receive signals from the industrial process to control the industrial process;

a web access interface including an Internet interface and a control network interface, wherein the control network interface is coupled to the plurality of control

devices by way of the control network, and wherein the Internet interface is capable of being coupled to a remote device via the Internet, the web access interface executing:

an Internet communications program executing on the web access interface that receives an Internet signal from the Internet having Internet application level socket API data and formatted in accordance with an Internet transport layer protocol and an Internet network layer protocol, wherein the Internet communications program extracts the Internet application level socket API data from the Internet signal and provides an Internet application level socket API signal including the Internet application level socket API data; and

a control network communications program executing on the web access interface that receives the Internet application level socket API signal and transmits a network signal over the control network based upon the Internet application level socket API signal to an appropriate one of the control devices selected in accordance with the Internet signal for response to the Internet application level socket API data, wherein the Internet application level socket API data is included within the network signal and processed by the respective web server program at the one of the control devices, and wherein the network signal is formatted and transmitted according to a protocol of the control network and not formatted or transmitted in accordance with any Internet transport layer protocol and any Internet network layer protocol;

the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request signal at the web access interface, wherein the request signal has been provided over the Internet from the remote device;

processing an Internet media access control protocol and a TCP/IP protocol with respect to the request signal by way of the Internet communications program of the web access interface, in order to extract Internet application level socket API data in the form of a Internet application level socket API signal;

determining an appropriate destination control device from among the plurality of control devices;

formatting the Internet application level socket API signal in accordance with the control network protocol and an internal media access control protocol to produce a network signal; and

delivering the network signal to the appropriate destination control device so that the Internet application level socket API data can be processed by the respective server program.

2.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the

independent claims (1 and 25) require controlling an industrial process by transmitting

Internet application level socket API data over a control network to a control device, this

Internet data is formatted and transmitted in accordance with a protocol of the control

network and not formatted or transmitted in accordance with an internet layer protocol,

the claims also require selecting a control device in accordance with the Internet signal

data. These features, in combination with the other limitations of the claims are

believed to be novel and non-obvious in view of the prior art. The art teaches industrial

controllers that can receive Internet signals (Thibault), transmitting socket data

(Stawikowski), as well as bridging between networks (Stevens). However the art does

not teach the combination of features as described above. Claims 2-9 and 22-23 are

allowable based on their dependency.

        Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON RECEK whose telephone number is (571)270-1975. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason Recek/
Examiner, Art Unit 2442
(571) 270-1975
    /Asad M Nawaz/
    Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2455